



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 September 2005

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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## Daily Highlights

- Finextra Research reports security experts say the battle against cyber thieves has reached a stalemate and credit card companies will have to spend millions over the next decade just to keep up with the criminals. (See item [4](#))
- Reuters reports the Paris-based World Animal Health Organization, OIE, says its \$100 million strategy to boost veterinary defenses against bird flu is the best way to limit the threat of a human pandemic of the deadly disease. (See item [23](#))
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency is urging residents in South Florida and along the Gulf Coast to pay close attention to Hurricane Rita's progress, make preparations for possible evacuations, and heed any directives of state and local officials. (See item [29](#))

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 20, Associated Press* — **OPEC agrees to offer extra crude oil.** The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed on Tuesday, September 20, to make two million extra barrels of oil a day available in an effort to reassure markets edgy over supplies for the winter and storms threatening refineries along the U.S. Gulf Coast. OPEC said it would

offer the extra oil for three months starting October 1, but that its output ceiling would remain unchanged at 28 million barrels a day. "We want to show everybody that we have the ability to provide oil in the future," said OPEC President Sheik Ahmed Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, who is also Kuwait's oil minister. He said the two million extra barrels represented the group's entire spare capacity. Tuesday's offer came as Tropical Storm Rita strengthened into a hurricane as it lashed the Florida Keys, threatening to inflict new damage on oil production facilities on the Gulf of Mexico coastline.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-OPEC-Meeting.htm>

2. *September 19, Associated Press* — **Gulf rigs evacuated.** Chevron Corp., Shell Oil and BP PLC began evacuating employees from offshore oil and gas platforms and drilling rigs as Tropical Storm Rita churned Monday, September 19, toward the Gulf of Mexico and threatened to compound the damage left by Hurricane Katrina. The federal Minerals Management Service said Monday afternoon that five drilling rigs had been evacuated, up from two on Friday, September 16, for a total of 3.7 percent of the 134 rigs operating in the Gulf. Drilling rigs are tethered to the Gulf floor and not as secure in storms. As a result, they are generally evacuated before the more-stable platforms, which are used to pump oil after the well is drilled. The agency said Monday afternoon that 83 platforms had been evacuated, almost all of them near New Orleans, equal to more than 10 percent of manned platforms, but that those had been unoccupied since Hurricane Katrina. About 56 percent of the Gulf's oil production remained out of operation Monday, reflecting damage in the Gulf and on shore from Katrina. About one-third of the Gulf's gas production was also out, the agency said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/19/AR2005091900932.html>

3. *September 19, Department of Energy* — **Energy announces additional loan of oil.** Department of Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman on Monday, September 19, announced that the Department of Energy (DOE) has approved a seventh loan request for crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). Monday's agreement with Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc., for 600,000 barrels of sour crude takes the total volume DOE has agreed to loan to 13.2 million barrels. Secretary Bodman committed on September 1, 2005, when the first oil loan was approved, to continue to consider requests from refiners whose sources of supply were disrupted as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Total Petrochemicals requested an additional 600,000 barrels bringing their total loan to 1.2 million barrels. The oil will be loaned from the SPR under short-term contractual agreements and returned once supply conditions are normal.

Source: [http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC\\_ID=18760&BT\\_CODE=PR\\_PRESSRELEASES&TT\\_CODE=PRESSRELEASE](http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=18760&BT_CODE=PR_PRESSRELEASES&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASE)

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

4. *September 20, Finextra Research* — **Card companies losing fight against cyber criminals.**

The battle against cyber thieves has reached a stalemate and card companies will have to spend millions over the next decade just to keep up with the criminals, according to security experts at Visa and MasterCard. John Shaughnessy, SVP for fraud prevention at Visa USA and Suzanne Lynch, VP for security and risk services at MasterCard, said that organized crime rings were successfully using the Internet and crimeware programs to counteract anti-fraud technologies implemented by card issuers. Visa's Shaughnessy says FBI data showed the number of Internet-related credit-card crime reports rose 66% in 2004. Part of the increase reflects the rise of business done via the Web, but part of it also reflects the increasing sophistication of the scammers. However, Shaughnessy and Lynch also blame problems within the payment chain itself for the increase in online card fraud, such as breaches at merchants and third party processors. Shaughnessy Visa and other card companies are looking at ways of protecting data so that even if a consumer's credit card information was compromised, it would be useless to a criminal. However, he says it will take investments over a number of years of millions of dollars to develop a secure system.

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=14284>

5. *September 20, Vnunet.com* — **Phishers look to Virgin Money customers.** A rash of phishing e-mails has been sent out targeting Virgin Money credit card customers. Web monitoring firm Websense has warned of the attack, which Virgin Money confirmed had already caught two customers. The attack was detected early Tuesday, September 20. The emails target credit card customers only, suggesting that the purpose is to perpetrate fraudulent e-commerce transactions or to print cloned cards for use in retail stores.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2142505/phishers-pluck-virgin-customers>

6. *September 20, Vnunet.com* — **Phishers switch to European banks.** Web monitoring firm Websense is warning of a major phishing attack on European banks, possibly because they have weaker security. The company discovered attacks against over two dozen European banks over the weekend, primarily against Spanish and Italian institutions. This is the first time that Websense has witnessed such a concerted attack against European banks. U.S. sites like Citibank and PayPal are more usual targets. "We're seeing a move to find the weakest link," said Mark Murtagh, Europe, Middle East, and Africa technical director at Websense. "Bigger banks have made some strides in providing material to prevent phishing but some are still relying on just a user name or password. Interestingly The Netherlands rarely gets targeted because almost every bank there has two-factor authentication or uses one-time passwords," said Murtagh. He also explained that phishers are increasingly targeting small non-English banks, which were formerly left alone because they have fewer users.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2142494/phishers-target-eu-ropean-banks>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

7. *September 20, Philadelphia Inquirer (PA)* — **Port of Camden gets money for security.** The Port of Camden, NJ, has received \$932,000 in federal grants that will pay for two state police surveillance boats and a bomb detection dog for the Delaware River Port Authority's canine unit, state officials announced on Monday, September 19. The two 28-foot state police vessels can house an underwater camera system to scan hulls of ships, bulkheads and dock areas for potential explosive devices, acting Governor Richard J. Codey said. The boats also will be equipped with advanced infrared cameras for nighttime surveillance. The vessels will help officials with the daunting task of patrolling the Delaware River, the busiest oil port on the East Coast. About \$57,000 of the grant will add a fourth bomb detection dog to the port authority's canine unit, which began in May 2003. The canine team will join the statewide Detect and Render Safe Task Force, which links the state's bomb-detecting canines and its 10 bomb squads in a unified effort to detect and defuse explosives. The state also received \$1.62 million for similar vessels and dive trucks at the Port of New York/New Jersey in Newark and Elizabeth.

Source: [http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/states/new\\_jersey/counties/camden\\_county/12690182.htm](http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/states/new_jersey/counties/camden_county/12690182.htm)

8. *September 20, Associated Press* — **Two European airlines to get cell phone system.** Two European airlines will allow passengers late next year to use their own cell phones on commercial flights within Western Europe, a Geneva-based technology firm said Tuesday, September 20. TAP Air Portugal and British carrier bmi both have agreed to introduce OnAir's voice and text service for cell phones in separate three-month trial runs, Chief Executive George Cooper said. OnAir's system will be used by TAP on its Airbus 321 model and by bmi on its Airbus 320s, both single-aisle planes primarily used for flights within Western Europe. Users of mobile phones and other handheld wireless devices with roaming capability will be able to make and receive calls using a base station within the airplane. They will be allowed to turn their phones on after the plane reaches 10,000 feet, when other electronic devices such as portable music players and laptops are permitted, Cooper said. Mobile phones are banned on existing aircraft for fear that they might interfere with a plane's navigation system as they attempt to log on to terrestrial networks. OnAir's mobile communications system is based within the plane, which it says ensures that cell phones and other devices operate at lower transmission power and thus avoid affecting avionics.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-20-europe-cellphones\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-20-europe-cellphones_x.htm)

9. *September 20, Reuters* — **Idle Acela didn't create cash crisis for Amtrak.** The financial impact of losing some or all of its premium Acela service for nearly six months staggered Amtrak but did not create the acute cash crisis that some rail and government officials had feared, Amtrak officials said Tuesday, September 20. Although the books do not close until September 30 and another substantial annual loss is expected system wide, Amtrak managed to hold on to enough operating funds after abruptly idling its 20 high-speed Acela trains in April to avert a possible shutdown or an embarrassing request to Congress for more money. He said Amtrak would end the year with about \$120 million cash on hand. Much of the balance is due to deferred capital projects, mainly track work, and other savings, Amtrak spokesperson Cliff Black said. The House railroad subcommittee will review options at a hearing Wednesday for future passenger rail business models, including a proposal by the Bush administration that

would dismantle the current Amtrak system and get states and private industry more involved in passenger rail service.

Source: [http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2005/09/20/idle\\_ace/as\\_didnt\\_create\\_cash\\_crisis\\_for\\_amtrak/](http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2005/09/20/idle_ace/as_didnt_create_cash_crisis_for_amtrak/)

10. *September 19, Associated Press* — **NTSB: Chicago train wreck was preventable.** A fatal train derailment last weekend might not have happened if the route had an automatic system that applies a train's brakes when an engineer fails to do so, a federal official said Monday September 19. "I believe it (the braking system) would have prevented this type of accident," said National Transportation Safety Board acting chairman Mark Rosenker. Metra has automatic braking systems on three of its 11 routes serving Chicago and its suburbs, but commuter rail officials say it is expensive and not essential. An automatic braking system slows the train if the engineer misses or ignores a signal, Metra Deputy Executive Director Richard Tidwell said. It would cost roughly \$200 million per line to equip trains on the other routes with that feature, said Metra chairman Jeffrey Ladd. "We have no reason to believe that it's necessary. But if it were, it's a very expensive item," Ladd said. "We'd have to get the money either from the state or the federal government." NTSB investigators are looking for other reasons why the engineer did not slow the train before the switch.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/12690025.htm>

11. *September 19, Department of Transportation* — **United States, Thailand sign Open-Skies aviation agreement.** U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta and Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Kantathi Suphamongkhon on Monday, September 19, signed an Open-Skies aviation agreement that will strengthen ties between the two countries by enabling U.S. and Thai airlines to offer more flights at lower fares. With this agreement, Thailand becomes the 71st U.S. Open-Skies partner. The agreement, finalized in Washington on September 9, follows an April 2005 meeting between Mineta and Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in Bangkok. The Secretary and Prime Minister expressed the desire at that time to conclude a comprehensive Open-Skies agreement within six months of their meeting. Prime Minister Thaksin also attended Monday's signing ceremony. In September 2003 the United States and Thailand reached agreement to remove restrictions on all-cargo services between and beyond the two countries. The new agreement also lifts restrictions on passenger services, allowing airlines from both countries to select routes and destinations based on consumer demand, without limits on the number of carriers, flights, or cities that can be served. The agreement provides for a five-year transition to Open Skies for pricing and for some services beyond the other country. All other Open-Skies provisions will take effect immediately.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot13205.htm>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

12. *September 20, Union Leader (NH)* — **Postal security changes come to New Hampshire.** By the end of this week, all letters that come through New Hampshire's two mail processing centers will be screened for anthrax contamination, another consequence of the terror attacks of four years ago. Manchester's mail processing and distribution center got the new "biohazard detection system" earlier this summer, and the equipment will go on line in the Portsmouth



center on Saturday, September 24, according to a spokesperson for the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). James H. Adams, district manager of the USPS for New Hampshire and Vermont, said all mail processing plants in the country have been getting the new equipment to check mail that comes into the centers from mail collection boxes. And in another security change, mailbox rentals are no longer anonymous. In truth, Adams said, the regulations requiring customers to provide their names and addresses to rent a postal box had been on the books since 1998. But the fall of 2001 made clear the nature of the threat. Adams said customers now have to present two forms of identification, including a photo ID, and fill out forms listing their home addresses and telephone numbers, if they want to rent a mailbox.

Source: [http://www.theunionleader.com/articles\\_showa.html?article=60558](http://www.theunionleader.com/articles_showa.html?article=60558)

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## **Agriculture Sector**

13. *September 20, Delta Farm Press* — **Delta crops suffer from Katrina.** Even though the Delta did not receive the brunt of Katrina's wrath, all Mississippi Delta crops will have some yield loss due to the storm, said Joe Street, head of the Delta Research and Extension Center (DREC). Cotton and rice seemed to be the hardest hit, according to a survey conducted by Street and Mississippi State University Extension personnel. Preliminary assessments estimate that between 20 to 25 percent of the Delta cotton crop yield potential was lost, said Steve Nichols, an assistant agronomist at the DREC. Damage to area cotton ranged from lower than a 10 percent potential yield loss in the north Delta to 20 percent to 30 percent and in a few cases, upwards of a 50 percent potential yield loss for cotton in the hardest hit portions of the south Delta, according to Nichols. As for rice, yields are expected to be reduced by about 15 percent in the Delta due to lodging, said Nathan Buehring, an assistant Extension professor at the DREC. About 50 percent of Delta rice fields lay completely flat, according to Buehring, but they are still harvestable. With corn, growers had over half of the Delta crop harvested prior to Katrina and although they are having luck gathering fallen corn, harvesting costs are increased. Source: <http://deltafarmpress.com/news/0509120-katrina-delta/>

14. *September 20, Ledger (FL)* — **Canker eradication program may close without funding.** The Citrus Canker Eradication Program may have to close its doors October 1, unless they receive more funding. "We are on the verge of being out of the canker eradication business," said Craig Meyer, the Florida deputy commissioner of agriculture and a co-chairman of the Citrus Canker Technical Advisory Task Force. "I don't think there's any expectation the budget will be passed by September 30," Meyer said. That means the eradication program would not get \$15 million from the federal government. The state and federal governments share the operating costs for the program. The program had hoped to get all the \$15 million federal share for operations by October, Meyer said. But if Congress passes a continuing resolution before October 1, the normal practice when it fails to meet the budget deadline, that would provide only a couple of more weeks of funding under federal rules, he said. Source: <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050920/NEWS/509200404/1178>

15. *September 20, Arizona Republic* — **Insect a threat to Arizona vintners.** An insect found in a southern Arizona plant nursery is threatening the state's \$18 million wine industry. Agriculture

inspectors have found glassy-winged sharpshooters — insects that are the primary carriers of a fatal, incurable vine infection called Pierce's disease — in the Sierra Vista area. A sharpshooter was initially found caught on a sticky trap pad at a nursery in Sierra Vista, near the state's major grape-growing region. Inspectors have found eight adult sharpshooters in traps and two egg clusters in the square mile surrounding the nursery, said Katie Decker, spokesperson for the Arizona Department of Agriculture. The department is still searching in rings around the nursery because the bugs can fly up to a quarter-mile. The glassy-winged sharpshooter is native to the southeastern U.S. The dark-brown or black bug is about a half-inch long, with ivory or yellow spots on its head and back. Pierce's disease devastated Southern California vineyards in the late 1990s, killing 14,000 acres of vineyards in Riverside County in 1999. Nearly 1,000 traps have been set since late August, when the first male and female sharpshooters were detected. The Agriculture Department believes the bug came from a plant grown outside the Sierra Vista area and delivered to the nursery.

Source: [http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/0\\_920sharpshooter20.html](http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/0_920sharpshooter20.html)

**16. *September 19, AgProfessional* — Quick identification system needed for citrus greening.**

The recent discovery of citrus greening in samples collected from trees in South Florida poses a definite threat to Florida's nine billion dollar commercial citrus industry. Proper identification and eradication methods are needed to reduce the amount of crop loss caused by this disease, say plant pathologists with The American Phytopathological Society (APS). Citrus greening is a bacterial disease that affects the phloem system of citrus plants causing the infected trees to yellow, decline, and possibly die within a few years. The bacterium is spread by an insect, the citrus psyllid. "Although there is no cure for citrus greening, it is vital that plant pathologists work with growers to quickly identify the disease and its insect hosts," said Ronald Brlansky, plant pathologist with the University of Florida. "Finding the extent of the disease and the removal of infected trees will reduce the damage done by this disease," he said. Citrus greening infects all types of citrus species. Citrus greening has seriously affected citrus production in Asia, Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and the Arabian Peninsula.

Source: [http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=35355](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=35355)

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## **Food Sector**

**17. *September 20, Associated Press* — British MREs held up in Arkansas for mad cow**

**regulations.** British meals ready-to-eat (MREs) donated for Hurricane Katrina victims as part of an international relief effort have instead sat on shelves at an air base in Arkansas because of U.S. regulations concerning mad cow disease, U.S. customs and agriculture department officials say. The MREs were shipped to Little Rock Air Force Base, which has been the hub for all international Katrina aid. Steven Cohen, a spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said British beef was barred from entering the U.S. because of mad cow disease. The restrictions have more to do with trade regulations than with safety, Cohen said.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/newsflash/louisiana/index.ssf?/base/news-19/1127229840199010.xml&storylist=louisiana>

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## **Water Sector**

18. *September 19, Associated Press* — **California mulls future water needs.** As California's population climbs from 36 million to a projected 48 million by 2030, a lack of water may pose the biggest limit on growth. Water agencies say billions of dollars worth of additional storage is needed. The state Department of Water Resources, is developing a new state water plan to be released later this year. Each of the previous seven state water plans developed since the first in 1957 has treated the water balance like a math equation: Demand minus supply equals a gap that must somehow be filled. The five-volume draft plan under final review for the first time offers a smorgasbord of recommendations for how to bridge the gap that could exist by 2030 — but says solutions may vary by region. A new reservoir that might be politically palatable in one region might never stand a chance elsewhere. It offers three projections: one if current water use trends continue, the others assuming more or less use by 2030. Then it offers 25 strategies for water management, including such things as increasing urban and agricultural water efficiency, boosting the use of recycled water, more water storage, desalinization, and increasing the state's ability to transfer water from wetter to drier regions.

Source: [http://www2.dailynews.com/news/ci\\_3039148](http://www2.dailynews.com/news/ci_3039148)

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## **Public Health Sector**

19. *September 20, Reuters* — **World has slim chance to stop flu pandemic.** The initial outbreak of what could explode into a bird flu pandemic may affect only a few people, but the world will have just weeks to contain the deadly virus before it spreads and kills millions. Chances of containment are limited because the potentially catastrophic infection may not be detected until it has already spread to several countries. Avian flu vaccines developed in advance will have little impact on the pandemic virus. It will take scientists four to six months to develop a vaccine that protects against the pandemic virus, by which time thousands could have died. There is little likelihood a vaccine will even reach the country where the pandemic starts. That is the scenario outlined on Tuesday, September 20, by Hitoshi Oshitani, the man who leads the World Health Organization's fight against avian flu in Asia. Oshitani said nobody knew when a pandemic would occur, it could be within weeks or years, but all the conditions were in place, save one — a virus that transmitted from human to human. The contagious H5N1 virus, which has killed 64 people in Asia since it was detected in 2003, might not be the one to trigger the pandemic, he said. Instead a genetically different strain could develop that passes between humans.

Source: [http://www.breitbart.com/news/2005/09/20/MTFH19822\\_2005-09-20\\_05-56-51\\_SCH016489.html](http://www.breitbart.com/news/2005/09/20/MTFH19822_2005-09-20_05-56-51_SCH016489.html)

20. *September 20, Associated Press* — **California whooping cough cases surge.** Nearly three times as many whooping cough cases have been reported in California this year compared to 2004, according to the state Department of Health Services. The state tallied 1,276 cases and four infant deaths through August. For the same period in 2004, it logged 450 cases and two deaths. The higher numbers may be due to improved testing and diagnosis, rather than a surge



in actual cases, officials said. Nationally, whooping cough cases rose sharply starting in the 1990s. The 25,827 cases reported last year were the highest total since 1959, but didn't come close to the 265,000 cases in 1934, which was the peak before vaccinations became routine. Health officials attributed the increase largely to adults and teenagers contracting the illness after immunity from childhood vaccinations wore off.

Whooping cough information: <http://www.cdc.gov/doc.do/id/0900f3ec80228696>

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/20/AR2005092000470.html>

21. *September 20, Associated Press* — **Indonesia moves to contain bird flu.** The government imposed "extraordinary" measures Tuesday, September 20, to contain a bird flu outbreak that has killed four people in Indonesia, including the forced hospitalization of people with symptoms of the disease. In addition to the fatalities, seven patients suspected of having the H5N1 strain of bird flu — two of them zoo employees — have been admitted to Jakarta's infectious diseases hospital, officials said. Health Minister Siti Fadila Supari said the government was taking the outbreak seriously and had assigned 44 state-owned hospitals to treat avian influenza patients and make sure all receive free medication. Those with symptoms of the disease — including high fever, coughing and breathing difficulties — could be forcibly admitted to hospitals, she said. Supari said the government would stockpile 10,000 tablets of Tamiflu — the only treatment so far proven effective against bird flu in humans — enough for about 1,000 victims. The Agriculture Ministry also said it would push to amend the current farm law to allow for sanctions against chicken farmers who refuse to cull birds sickened by the virus.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/20/AR2005092000220.html>

22. *September 20, AFX News Limited* — **Japanese encephalitis kills more than 1,000 in India, Nepal.** The death toll from an outbreak of Japanese encephalitis passed 1,000 in northern India and neighboring Nepal. India's worst hit state of Uttar Pradesh overnight reported 16 more encephalitis deaths, taking the toll to 781 since end of July, officials said. Overcrowded hospitals Tuesday, September 20, took in 55 new patients. But officials said the disease, which is transmitted from pigs via culex mosquitoes, is on the wane. "Earlier we were daily getting 120 to 150 new cases but this number is now going down and we hope by month end the disease will leave us," said OP Singh, state health chief. In Nepal the death toll was today officially put at 252, with another 1,510 being treated for the disease, which causes headaches, seizures and high fever.

Japanese Encephalitis information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/jencephalitis/index.htm>

Source: [http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2005/09/20/afx223351\\_8.html](http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2005/09/20/afx223351_8.html)

23. *September 20, Reuters* — **Better veterinary controls needed in bird flu fight.** The world animal health body OIE said on Tuesday, September 20, its \$100 million strategy to boost veterinary defenses against bird flu was the best way to limit the threat of a human pandemic of the deadly disease. With governments spending hundreds of millions of dollars on stocks of anti-viral drugs for use in case the virus mutates to pass easily between humans, it said some of the funds should be spent on animal surveillance and disease control at source. "If the disease is controlled in animals, the risk of a human pandemic is reduced by thousands of times, and it costs much less," OIE Director-General Bernard Vallat told Reuters. Fears of a human

pandemic of bird flu with the potential to kill millions have increased since the discovery that the H5N1 strain of the virus that has killed more than 60 people in Asia has spread to birds in Siberia. Experts fear the Middle East, Africa, and Europe may be next. While most European countries have veterinary systems in place to deal effectively with an outbreak of bird flu, many in places such as Africa need funds to build their defenses.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L20434429.htm>

24. *September 19, Howard Hughes Medical Institute* — **Gaining ground against antibiotic resistance.** Antibiotic resistance has put humans in an escalating 'arms race' with infectious bacteria, as scientists try to develop new antibiotics faster than the bacteria can evolve new resistance strategies. But now, researchers have a new strategy that may give them a leg up in the race — reproducing in the lab the natural evolution of the bacterial enzymes that confer resistance. A team of scientists in Argentina and Mexico identified mutations that increased the efficiency of a bacterial enzyme that renders penicillin and cephalosporin antibiotics useless. The results could lead to more effective enzyme inhibitors by giving drug designers a sneak peek at the next generation of resistance. When the scientists introduced random mutations into the gene for a bacterial resistance enzyme and grew the bacteria on increasing concentrations of antibiotics, it took only a few days of test tube evolution to increase drug resistance. Eventually, they found four mutations in the evolved enzyme that allowed the bacteria to survive on a drug dose 64 times higher than the dose that kills bacteria hosting the un-evolved enzyme.

Source: <http://www.hhmi.org/news/vila.html>

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## **Government Sector**

25. *September 19, Department of Homeland Security* — **U.S. Government response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.** Federal support to state and local officials, volunteer organizations, victims and their families who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina continues around the clock in an effort to provide recovery support to those affected by this unprecedented natural disaster. The following facts provide an update to some of the important activities and approximate numbers: a) Household Assistance Funds: 593,000 Households — \$1.4 billion; b) The Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention formed a joint task force to advise local and state officials of the potential health and environmental risks associated with returning to the City of New Orleans; c) EPA mobile labs in the New Orleans area are distributing 700 drinking water sample test kits to Parish Health Units for use by private well owners; d) Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State of Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness officials announced the opening of a Disaster Recovery Center in Slidell, LA. There are now 12 centers open to assist Louisiana victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Graph of Household Assistance Funds:

[http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/Press\\_KatrinaAssistanceFunds\\_20050919.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/Press_KatrinaAssistanceFunds_20050919.pdf)

Initial Environmental Health Needs and Habitability Assessment:

[http://www.epa.gov/katrina/reports/envneeds\\_hab\\_assessment.html](http://www.epa.gov/katrina/reports/envneeds_hab_assessment.html)

Additional detail of U.S. Government response efforts:

<http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/katrina.htm>

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4829>

## **Emergency Services Sector**

**26. *September 20, Cadillac News (MI)* — Full-scale disaster exercise planned in Michigan.**

More than 750 men, women and youth will get a sense of what it means to experience a major disaster when Osceola County, MI, conducts the largest full-scale exercise in its local history. Scheduled for Thursday, September 22, the two-county full-scale exercise is a coordinated effort between Osceola and Mecosta County, MI, Emergency Management offices. Local, state and federal agencies will cooperate in a scenario simulating a terrorist attack on Pine River High School and Middle School. The disaster-training event has been two years in planning. It will engage schools, police, fire, 911 and other community entities from both counties. "It will allow us the opportunity to respond to a simulated event in a safe, controlled manner so we can discover and address challenges for the future," said Mark Watkins, Osceola County Emergency Management director. The scenario was designed to involve all function areas of emergency management, according to Watkins. It will specifically address situations requiring criminal intervention that could occur in schools or the workplace, and includes testing the mass casualty capabilities of emergency management teams. The practice drill also aims to help students and staff understand their roles in the event of a terrorist attack.

Source: <http://www.cadillacnews.com/articles/2005/09/20/news/news03.txt>

**27. *September 20, Courier Press (IN)* — Indiana agencies to test response to mock disaster.**

Emergency responders will test their response to a mock disaster during a special exercise Saturday, September 24, in Evansville-Vanderburgh County, IN. Although the exercise is timely in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, it has been planned by the county's Local Emergency Planning Committee and Indiana Department of Homeland Security for six months, said Sherman Greer, director of the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). The event will run from 9 to 11 a.m. EST Saturday at Roberts Stadium in Evansville, IN. It will be preceded by a "tabletop" exercise Friday, September 23, at the EMA offices in which local officials will use the county's emergency plans and procedures by working through an imaginary hazardous materials release. The event Saturday will center on response to a chemical weapons attack. However, its planners are keeping exact details secret so that the emergency personnel involved will not be able to plan their actions in advance.

"Aspects of the response would be similar if we had a tornado or an earthquake," said Keith Kahre, Emergency Planning Committee chairman. "The goal is making sure we work together."

Source: [http://www.courierpress.com/ecp/news/article/0,1626,ECP\\_734\\_4093997,00.html](http://www.courierpress.com/ecp/news/article/0,1626,ECP_734_4093997,00.html)

**28. *September 20, Jacksonville Daily Progress (TX)* — Texas emergency responders conduct Hazmat drill.**

Jacksonville, TX, and local emergency response personnel collaborated Saturday, September 17, to become better prepared to handle situations where hazardous material might pose a threat. Transportation Community Awareness Emergency Response (TRANSCAER) presented authorities from Union Pacific Railroad and Shell Chemical to share procedures on how to handle hazardous material spills in a collision or derailment situation.

"We don't expect you to take care of our problems," said Rick Ferguson, Shell Chemical emergency coordinator, "but we do understand that you will be the first responders to a situation. We want to try and give you an idea of what you would be dealing with and how best

to deal with it." Participating agencies learned how to identify hazardous material, how to control or contain a spill or leak, the different types of equipment used to transport hazardous materials, how to identify a hazardous material transport and who to call for clean up. TRANSCAER is a voluntary national outreach effort that focuses on assisting communities to prepare for and respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident. Its members consist of volunteer representatives from the chemical manufacturing, transportation, distributor, and emergency response industries, as well as the government.

TRANSCAER Website: <http://www.transcaer.org/public/about.cfm>

Source: <http://www.jacksonvilleprogress.com/articles/2005/09/19/news/news01.txt>

29. *September 19, Department of Homeland Security* — **U.S. Government readies for Hurricane Rita, Federal Emergency Management Agency urges preparedness.** The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is urging residents in South Florida and along the Gulf Coast to pay close attention to Hurricane Rita's progress. Residents of the Florida Keys and the Gulf Coast should heed the directives of state and local officials and make preparations now. FEMA is preparing for Hurricane Rita by pre-positioning over one hundred trucks of ice, water and Meals-Ready-to-Eat, as well as two Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, two Urban Search & Rescue Task Forces, and multiple Mobile Emergency Response System personnel. In addition to these preliminary steps, federal agencies are providing the following support if necessary: a) The U.S. Department of Agriculture is prepared to provide food supplies. Other emergency programs, such as food stamps, are ready to be activated if needed; b) The U.S. Department of Defense has deployed Defense Coordinating Officers and Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers to the Florida state emergency operations center, to FEMA regional headquarters, and to the Tallahassee FEMA Mobilization Center; c) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has deployed HHS liaisons to both the Florida state operations center and the federal regional operations center in Atlanta.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4831>

30. *September 19, Providence Journal (RI)* — **Drill at Rhode Island mall tests poisoning scenario.** Rhode Island emergency workers conducted a drill Monday, September 19, to learn how to respond to a mass-casualty scenario on a small scale: a mock poisoning inside the Providence Place Mall, one of Providence, RI's, largest buildings. Nearly a dozen drill observers, as well as a number of Rhode Island Police and Fire Department commanders, watched the events unfold during the two-hour drill. Monday's drill simulated a heating-system breakdown that spewed carbon monoxide into the mall, sickening people. An emergency call went out shortly after 8 a.m. EST, and fire trucks, ambulances, special-hazards vehicles began arriving within minutes. While Assistant Fire Chief Michael Dillon supervised the scene from the street, teams of firefighters and emergency medical technicians walked into the mall's parking garage to find victims split into two groups: those with only minor exposure symptoms, such as coughing or shortness of breath, and those who were unconscious. While the drill went smoothly, Dillon said a real incident at the six-level, 1.3-million-square-foot mall would be "extremely difficult" to handle. For one, the rail lines that run under the mall might have to be closed, disrupting railroad service in Northeast. City and mall officials are already preparing another drill for the winter.

Source: [http://www.projo.com/news/content/projo\\_20050919\\_d19.8b024cc.html](http://www.projo.com/news/content/projo_20050919_d19.8b024cc.html)

31. *September 19, Canadian Press* — **Toronto carries out simulated terror attack.** Emergency crews pulled people from a Toronto subway station and office tower Sunday, September 18, after a highly coordinated mock terrorist attack. In the scenario, an international terrorist group with roots in Toronto demanded the Canadian government remove its troops from Afghanistan or face the consequences. The crisis simulation started with the fictional terrorist group detonating a bomb in the subway near St. Andrew's station. "It was a radioactive device . . . which contaminated the subway car," explained Gregory Stasyna of Toronto's Emergency Management. "Whilst carrying out a rescue at that site, (another) explosion went off at a second site, a couple blocks down the road (at the Royal Trust Tower)," he said. "That was a hydrogen cyanide weapon, which was detonated in a stairwell and thus trapped and injured a number of people." The exercise was designed to give officials from different departments a chance to work together and prepare for a devastating event. The response team included police, firefighters, paramedics and the city's joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Team (CBRN). The test included about 250 people and cost about \$21,358–\$25,632 U.S. Dollars to conduct.  
Source: [http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/11270974\\_74844\\_26/?hub=Canada](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/11270974_74844_26/?hub=Canada)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

32. *September 19, BBC News* — **Hackers target net call systems.** The biannual Symantec Threat Report is reporting that hackers are starting to turn their attention to the technology behind net phone calls. The Voice over IP (Voip) systems as a technology starting to interest hi-tech criminals and the report predicted that within 18 months, Voip will start to be used as a "significant" attack vector. Voip could resurrect some old hacking techniques as well as using old hacking techniques.  
Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4259554.stm>
33. *September 19, SecurityNewsPortal.com* — **Security vendor warns of Google-spoofing worm.** There is a new Google worm, called P2Load.A and it is being spread on peer-to-peer programs like Shareaza and Imesh. According to Forrest Clark, senior manager of consumer product marketing with antivirus vendor Panda Software, the worm is posing as a free version of the Lucasfilm game "Knights of the Old Republic II." P2Load.A first began spreading on Wednesday and is most widely spread in the U.S. and Chile, Clark said. Users that download this game are finding themselves installing a new work and then receiving poor Google search results. This is done in installation which changes the browser when a user is trying to access Google. Instead of reaching Google the user is directed to a spoof site, hosted on a server in Germany.  
Source: [http://www.snpx.com/cgi-bin/news55.cgi?target=109996736?-262\\_2](http://www.snpx.com/cgi-bin/news55.cgi?target=109996736?-262_2)
34. *September 19, Securiteam* — **Computer Associates BrightStor ARCserve/Enterprise backup agents buffer overflow.** An improper bound checking in the Computer Associates BrightStor ARCserve/Enterprise backup allows attackers to cause a buffer overflow in Computer Associates BrightStor ARCserve/Enterprise Backup Agents. A vulnerability exists that may allow code to be crashed arbitrarily or the allow the system to crash.



## Internet Alert Dashboard

### DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US-CERT has received reports of multiple phishing sites that attempt to trick users into donating funds to fraudulent foundations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. US-CERT warns users to expect an increase in targeted phishing emails due to recent events in the Gulf Coast Region.

Phishing emails may appear as requests from a charitable organization asking the users to click on a link that will then take them to a fraudulent site that appears to be a legitimate charity. The users are then asked to provide personal information that can further expose them to future compromises.

Users are encouraged to take the following measures to protect themselves from this type of phishing attack:

1. Do not follow unsolicited web links received in email messages
2. Contact your financial institution immediately if you believe your account/and or financial information has been compromised

US-CERT strongly recommends that all users reference the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) web site for a list of legitimate charities to donate to their charity of choice.

For more information and current disaster updates please see URL:  
<http://www.fema.gov/>

### Current Port Attacks

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 40000 (---), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 50000 (SubSARI), 55321 (---), 53 (domain), 25 (smtp) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open–source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website:  
<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

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### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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